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DISCOVERIES: NEW SCIENCE FINDINGS

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Mom's age mean longer life?

The odds of living to 100 or more double when a person is born to a woman under 25, compared with those people born to older mothers, according to a study at the Center on Aging at the University of Chicago. The finding also may clear up the mystery of why being a first-born boosts longevity. "It turns out the whole phenomenon of first-born order and longevity is driven by young maternal age," said study co-author Leonid Gavrilov.

Antibiotics and asthma

British researchers have found giving the antibiotic telithromycin reduced asthma symptoms in people having a flare-up. "It's too early to make recommendations for practice," said study author Dr. Sebastian Johnston, a professor of respiratory medicine at the National Heart and Lung Institute at Imperial College London. The drug may suppress bacteria thought to be involved in flare-ups.

Education and your heart

People who never completed high school were four times more likely to have signs of future heart trouble than those who finished college and had a graduate education. This agrees with many earlier studies, but this one factored out such social factors as access to medical care, according to study author Lijing L. Yan, research assistant professor of preventive medicine at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. Her conjecture is that greater stress is somehow involved with those having less education.

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